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INTELLOFAX 5
COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC

Buchholz Airfield

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 9 February and 1 March 1952, clearing operations were completed in the entire area of the Buchholz airfield, and the logs were continuously being transported to the Pampow saw mill. Five steam locomotives, a Diesel stump grubber and a horse capstan were used for clearing work. The uprooting operation was completed on the W-E strip which was 400 meters long and 400 meters wide. Contrary to previous information, the northern and southern strips were being cleared and also leveled. However, these strips will not be provided with humus layers. The border strip will be cleared only upon completion of logging in the other areas. At the time of observation, 188 workers, including office personnel, were employed at the field. The construction project was referred to as "O-11". The new construction superintendent, Engineer Lukov (fnu) was expected to arrive on 3 March. *

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2. [] since December 1951, the following personnel changes have occurred among the Weender air force construction staff: Lieutenant Colonel Zukorukov (fnu) was made chief, Lieutenant Colonel Streltsov (fnu) became his deputy and chief of the projects' department, and Lieutenant Colonel Smirnov (fnu) was observed for the first time. In technical matters the staff was not subordinate to any agency in the Soviet Zone of Germany, but to a headquarters in Moscow where Lieutenant Colonel Posnikov (fnu) was in charge of projects in the Soviet Zone of Germany. In financial affairs, the construction staff was subordinate to Karlshorst. Lieutenant Colonel Streltsov repeatedly said that it took 7 to 8 days to obtain decisions from Posnikov in Moscow. **

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3. As to the previously reported airfield construction in Ratzow [] the construction is not in Ratzow near Hauen, but about 25 km north-west of Meyenburg, at the border of the Gaender Mecklenburg and Brandenburg. The area was surveyed by Dresden Bauunion. However, Bauunion firms in Dresden and Brandenburg refused to carry out the work since they did not have adequate machines. Laren Bauunion firm declared itself willing to take the contract for this project if the work on Project O-11 in Buchholz should prove a profitable enterprise. Lieutenant Colonel Streltsov said that the Russians laid much emphasis on the construction of the airfield.***

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4. On 4 March 1952 extensive clearing operations were observed along Reichstrasse 106 leading from Schwerin to Ludwigslust between the 25 km mark and Hasenhaege in the Wolthusen area. According to local residents an airfield was under construction here.

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* [] Comment. []

an airfield with a sodded surface is to be constructed there, probably for intermediate landings by ground attack aircraft which are to conduct combined practices with the Soviet Army. Since a proportionately small number of laborers are employed at the field it is believed that the construction will not be completed before the summer of 1952.

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** [] Comment. The statements on personnel changes in the Werder construction staff and the subordination to a Moscow headquarters are reported for the first time. It was assumed so far that the central construction staff is directly subordinate to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army which is contradicted by this report.

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*** [] Comment. The construction of an airfield near Meyenburg, 20 km west of Roedel, was previously reported. []

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